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OF
WEST PAKISTAN

REPORT

ON THE



WORKING OF THE PESHAWAR MUSEUM

FOR THE YEAR

1955-56.

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REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE PESHAWAR MUSEUM FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1956.

I. Introduction.

The Peshawar Museum played its part in the stimulation of Cultural activities in the Region. The Curator actively helped in the foundation of the Abasin Art Society, Peshawar, which was established with the object of preserving, promoting and propagating the art, craft and culture of the Region. Two exhibitions, one of paintings of contemporary local artists in oil, water colour, pencil and pen drawings, tempera, abstract, cubism and models and another one of Goya's Etchings, were held in the museum during the year under report. A circulation exhibition of recent acquisitions was sent to Karachi at the occasion of Sixth Museums Conference held in January, 1956, and another one to the Village Aid Centre, Peshawar. A set of Gandhara Sculptures was lent for permanent display at the National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi, and another set was lent for exhibition in Pakistan Embassies abroad.

Two Short-Term Courses and one Diploma Course in Museology were held in the Museum during the year 1955-56. Four teachers were trained during the year two of whom belonged to the Armed Forces and the other two to the Education Department of this Region. The weekly classes of Museums-School-service remained a regular feature. Batches of students of local Schools and Colleges were given conducted tours in the Museum and of archaeological sites in the Peshawar Division. The Curator who is also Honorary Secretary of the Museums Association of Pakistan successfully conducted a Refresher Course in Museology in January, 1956, at Karachi in which officers of all museums in Pakistan participated. This Course, it may be pointed out, was the first of its kind in the country and greatly benefitted the participants. Three Urdu Talks 'Sangtrashi', 'Naqqashi' and Fann-i-Tasweer' in the series of **Sarhad ki Wadiyon men** and one Pashto Talk 'Lokhi' in the series of **Sanga Shuroo Shawi Woo** in the Children's programme were broadcast by the Curator, Peshawar Museum, from the Radio Station Peshawar, during the year, 1955-56.

II. Attendance.

The number of visitors to the Peshawar Museum increased from 1,44,967 to 1,73,596 during the year among whom 51,283 were ladies. Five parties of excursionists from Karachi, Bahawalpur, Khairpur, Gujrat and East Pakistan were given conducted rounds of the Museum and of the archaeological sites in the Peshawar Division. Members of the German Expedition for Scientific Survey of Karakoram Range, the Honourable Minister for Law and Immigration, Tasmania; Dr. Tucci from Italy, Professor Ahmet Sakru Esmar from Ankara (Turkey), Dr. Herman Kopt (Germany) Mr. Rose Mclean from UNESCO., the Netherland Minister in Pakistan, Professor P. Kahle of Bonn University, Germany, Mr. Kamni Kumar Data, Minister for Health, Government of Pakistan, and Dr. Mrs. Grace Morley, Director, San Francisco Museum of Art, California, U. S. A., were among the distinguished visitors to the Museum during the year besides four parties of foreign journalists and members of foreign missions in Pakistan.

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III. Acquisition.—

Fortynine works of Art including 7 oil paintings, 23 water colours, 7 pen drawings, 3 pencil-drawings, 3 pastels, 6 etchings and one work of caligraphy were acquired during the year 1955-56. The most conspicuous object among them is an oil painting entitled 'GHILZAI CAMP'. It represents typically the nomadic life of the Pawinda Tribe. The tents, the camels, the women folk (some of whom are cooking meals and others seen busy feeding the donkeys), the male members in the camp bringing fuel and grass for the cattles, are so clearly depicted that a complete picture of the life of the tribe can be studied at a glance. The primitive type of dresses of both the sexes, the playing of children in front of the tents, the hen and the chickens on one side and the watch dog on the other, present a spectacular view on the canvas. The colour-scheme and perspective of the painting are at their best.

13 Silver and 4 Copper Coins of the Indo-Greek and Indo-Scythian period, the Sultans of Delhi and Mughal Kings were purchased. The collection includes two silver coins each of Humayun and Babar, which were never represented in the coin cabinet and so a longfelt need of the Museum was fulfilled. Three more plants of artificial flowers, cypresses and grasses of crape paper were added to the collection in which visitors showed great interest.

IV. Library.

One hundred and fifty-eight books, reports and periodicals were added to the library of the Museum during the year under report. The following 25 books were purchased and others were received gratis or on exchange basis from different institutions and societies :—

1. "Indus Civilisation" by Dr. Sir M. Wheeler.
2. Handbook of Oriental History by Phillips.
3. Report of Archaeological Survey of India - by Alexander Cunningham for the year 1863-64.
4. Report of Archaeological Survey of India - by Alexander Cunningham for the year 1864-65.
5. Report of Archaeological Survey of India - by Alexander Cunningham for the year 1878-79, Vol. XIV.
6. Index of the report of the Archaeological Survey of India by Alexander Cunningham for the year 1878-79, Vol. XIV.
7. Badshahi Mosque, Lahore by Dr. M. Abdullah Chughtai.
8. Indian Painting in the Punjab Hills by W. G. Archer.
9. Arms and Jewellery of the Indian Mughals by Abdul Aziz.
10. Painting in Pakistan by Pakistan Publications, Karachi.
11. Gods, Graves and Scholars by C. W. Coram.

12. Art in East and West by Benjamin Rowland.
13. Abstracts of Technical Studies in Art and Archaeology by R. J. Gettins and B. M. Usieton.
14. Libraries, Museums and Art Galleries year Book 1954-55.
15. Early Travel in India (1583-1619) by William Faster.
16. Baghdad during Abbasid Caliphate by G. Le. Strange.
17. A Forgotten Empire (Vijayanagar) by Robert Sewell.
18. Buddhism in China by Rev. S. Beal.
19. Anthropological Papers on Parsee subjects, Parts I, II and III by Jivanji Jamshidji Modi.
20. Atlas of Islamic History by H. W. Hazard.
21. Early Islamic Pottery by A. Lane.
22. Legacy of Islam by Sir Thomas Arnold.
23. Abul Fazal's Ain-i-Akbari in three Volumes, Published by Asiatic Society of Bengal.
24. Phonetic in Ancient India by W. S. Allen.
25. Cultural Heritage of Pakistan by Percival Spear and S. M. Ikram.

One hundred and fifty school and college students including those who were writing thesis for their M. A. Examination; research scholars and Government Officers made use of the Museum Library and were greatly benefitted. Also students and research scholars from abroad took great interest in the collection of the Museum and studied them with help of reference books. Local Numismatists and Artists of the region paid frequent visits to the Museum for deciphering their coins and establishing their identity with the help of catalogues and art books available in the Museum Library.

V. Museum Publications and Photographs.

Forty-nine Museum Publications worth Rs. 240 and 150 photographs (large and small) worth Rs. 60 were sold during the year under report and a total sum of Rs. 300 deposited in the Government Treasury under head "XXXVI—Misc. Peshawar Museum-Provincial". Eleven sets, each set containing 12 prints of small size photographs, 20 prints of large size photographs and 44 Government publication were presented to distinguished visitors to the Museum during the year under report. Archaeological Missions, Foreign and local scholars were given every possible facility to take photographs of sculptures in the Museum for comparative study.

VI. Staff.

Mr. M. A. Shakur remained in charge of the Museum throughout the year under report. He was re-elected as Secretary of the Museums Association of Pakistan for the year under report. He was also elected Secretary of the newly established Abasin Art Society.

Mr. Muhammad Amin Jan, Assistant to the Curator, Peshawar Museum, proved himself very helpful in assisting the Curator in his curatorial duties. He was granted a Diploma in Museology by the former Government of the North-West Frontier Province. He was sent on deputation to join the excavations conducted by the Department of Archaeology, Government of Pakistan, in Khairpur Division, in October-December, 1955, and did very useful work in the field. He also attended the Refresher Course in Museology at Karachi in January, 1956.

Mr. Abdul Rashid, Clerk, made all round progress and worked efficiently.

A sweeper of the Peshawar Museum, who served the Department for the last 27 years, was invalided out of service by the recommendation of Civil Surgeon, Peshawar, and granted invalid Gratuity. He was replaced by another one through the agency of Employment Exchange, Peshawar. All other Museum Attendants remained unchanged. They worked hard and satisfactorily throughout the year under report.

As the Museum grows in popularity and importance, the need for additional staff has been keenly felt. The creation of the post of an Assistant Curator is specially necessary.

VII. Tour.

The Curator, Peshawar Museum, toured the Peshawar and Dera Ismail Khan Divisions for acquisition of antiquities and inspection of archaeological sites. The Curator and the Assistant to the Curator attended the Sixth Museums Conference held at Karachi in January, 1956.

VIII. Finance.

The former Government of North-West Frontier Province allotted Rs. 21,000 for the maintenance of the Museum for the year 1955-56 and placed Rs. 1,000 at the disposal of the Curator as grant-in-aid to the Museums Association of Pakistan, but as a measure of economy a sum of Rs. 1,394 was withdrawn later on by the late Provincial Government of North-West Frontier Province, from the sub-head "Contingencies". With the integration of Provinces into One Unit, there were a few minor variations in Estimates under sub-heads, "Travelling Allowance" and "Contingencies" which were adjusted by re-appropriation with the approval of the Government of West Pakistan.

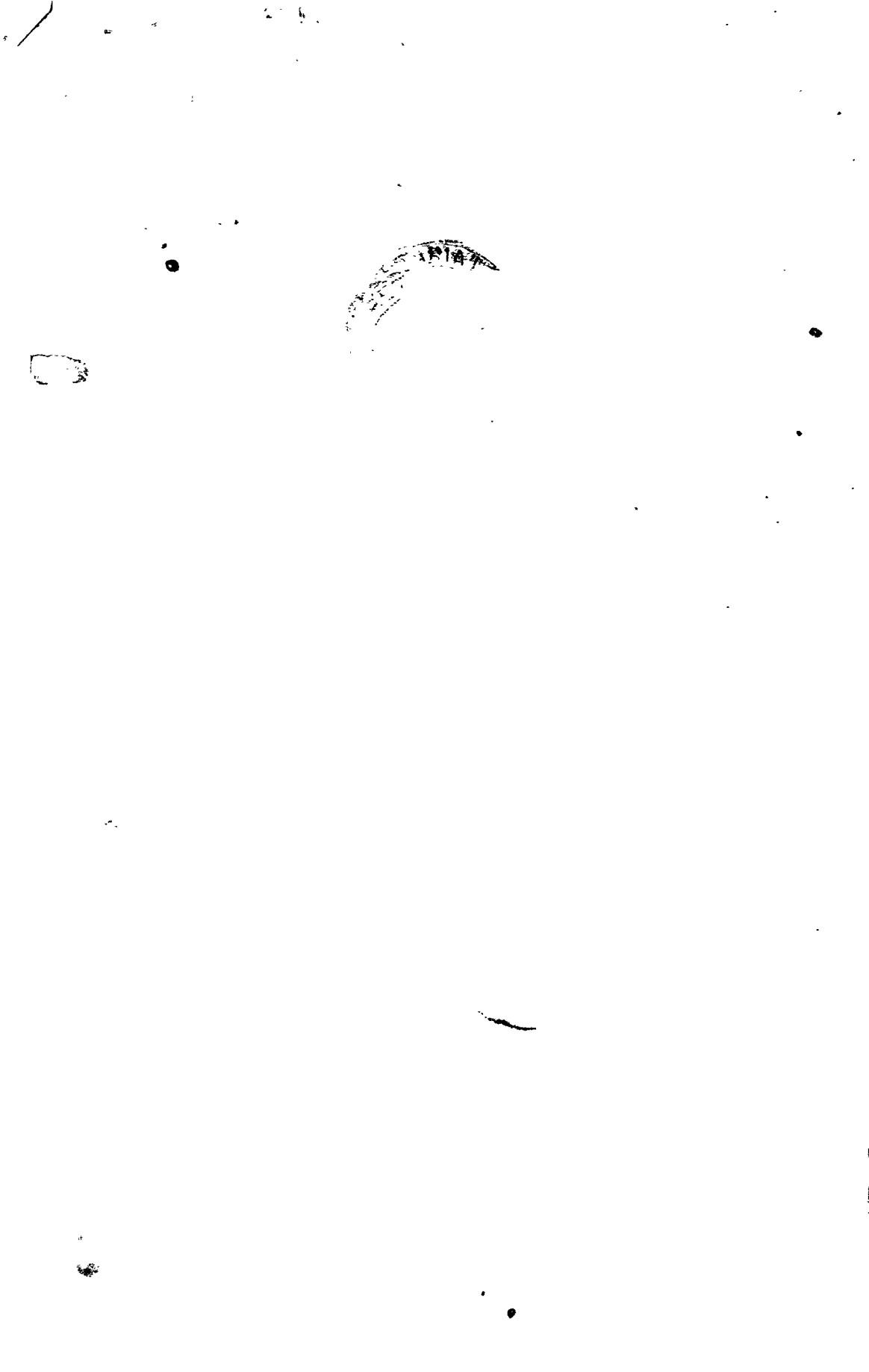
Peshawar,
16th July, 1956.



M. A. SHAKUR
Curator,
Peshawar Museum.

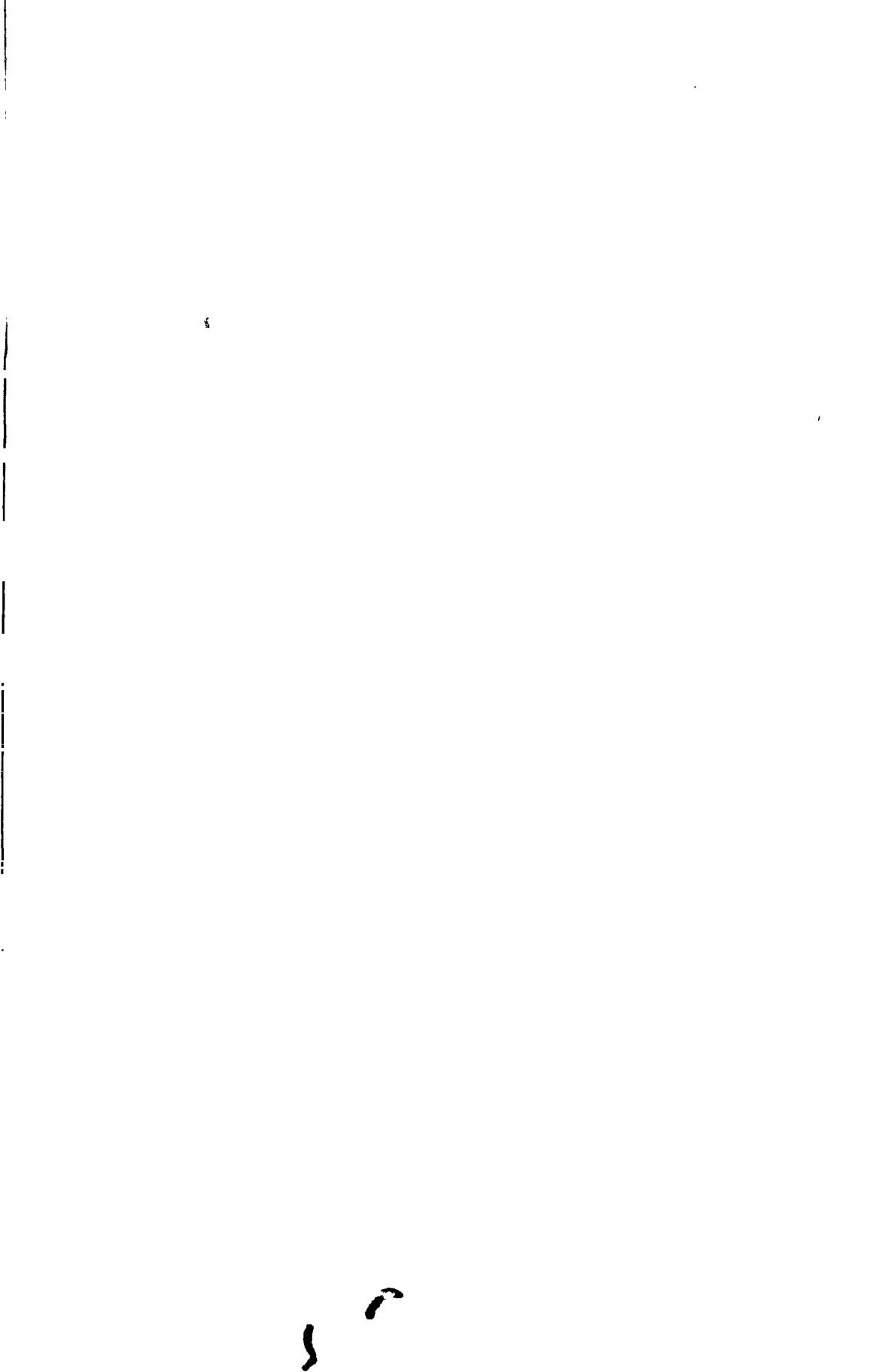
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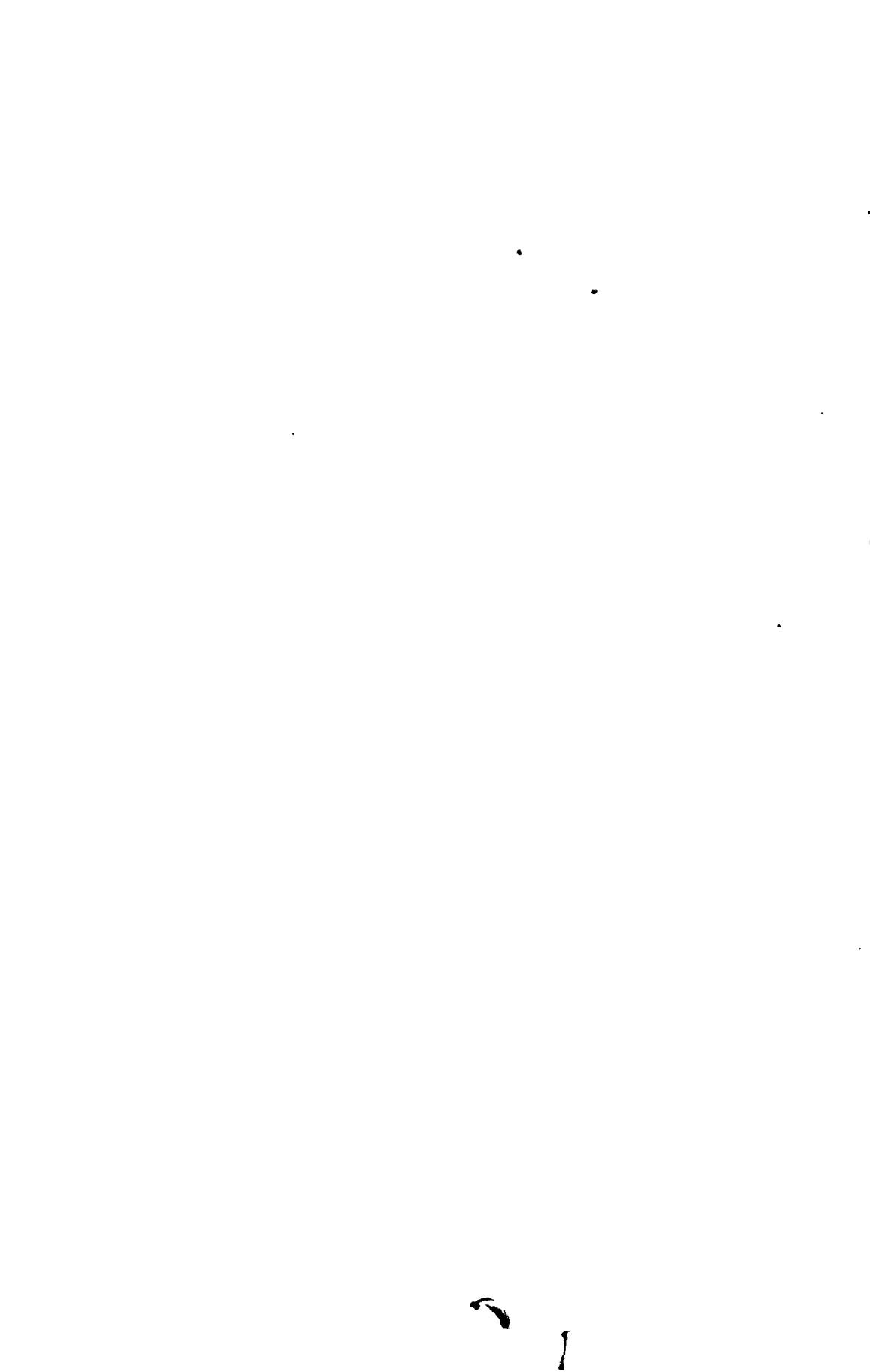
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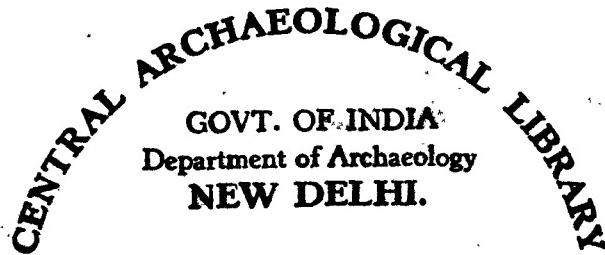
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